

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held May 24, 2005, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 12, 13, 22, 23, 25 and 27-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP55-071713 (Tsubuko et al) in view of *Handbook of Imaging Materials*, pp. 231-36 (Diamond) and US 5,364,729 (Kmiecik-Lawrynowicz et al), is respectfully traversed.

As required by the above-amended independent claims now under rejection, the product produced by the claimed methods includes a plurality of colorant particles formed on the surface of each resin particle to such an extent that there is substantially no contact between individual resin particles. None of the applied prior art, alone or in any combination, disclose or suggest such a product.

Thus, Tsubuko et al, which is also described in the specification herein at page 10, lines 20-22, discloses a particular graft polymer for resin particles to be used, for example, in electrophotographic liquid developing agents.

Diamond discloses that milling of pigment with resin and liquid dispersant is typically carried out until a dispersion of a specific particle size has been achieved, in the preparation of liquid toners, but does not specify particular milling conditions, or what the resulting product of such milling would be.

Kmiecik-Lawrynowicz et al discloses preparing a pigment dispersion comprised of a pigment, an ionic surfactant, and optionally, a charge control agent, shearing the pigment dispersion with a latex or emulsion blend comprised of resin, a counterionic surfactant with a

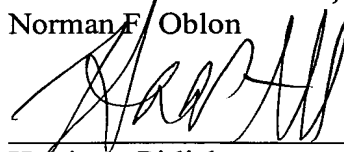
charge polarity of opposite sign to that of the ionic surfactant, and a non-ionic surfactant, heating the sheared blend below about the glass transition temperature of the resin, to form electrostatically bound toner size aggregates with a narrow particle size distribution, and heating the bound aggregates above about the glass transition temperature of the resin, (Abstract). Kmiecik-Lawrynowicz et al is relied on for the disclosure of heating below the glass transition temperature of the resin while shearing causes particles to be bound together.

As Applicants' attorney noted during the above-referenced interview, even if one skilled in the art combined the above references, the result would not necessarily be the product recited in the present claims, since milling *per se* will not necessarily produce a product of identical structure regardless of milling conditions, and respective amounts and sizes of colorant and resin particles. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the above rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 36 and 37. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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